



# Install artificial nesting and/or roosting structures

## What to do:

Artificial nesting structures work! Wood duck nesting boxes and song bird houses are popular, commonly-used structures. Many people have also had success using Canada goose platforms, mourning dove cones, and nesting cylinders for mallards. Artificial structures are available for many types of birds of prey, song birds, and bats. Learn about the specific roosting needs of the species you're trying to attract and get advice regarding which structures are most suitable for your property. All nesting structures require annual maintenance, such as resetting support posts, resealing nesting structures to posts or trees, and removing and replacing nesting materials. The construction and installation of nesting structures can be fun projects for the whole family.

## Benefits:

- Provides additional nesting habitat in areas that meet other food, water, and cover requirements.
- Increases populations of locally breeding wildlife species, particularly wood ducks. The California Waterfowl Association has distributed and installed more than 5,000 wood duck nesting boxes since 1991 and 68 percent of the boxes have been used.
- Encourages selected species to return each spring to nest on your land.
- Offers nesting habitat to many species farmers would like to encourage, such as barn owls, screech owls, American kestrels, flycatchers, wrens, blue birds, swallows, and insect-eating bats.
- Provides a fun, outdoor activity for the whole family.



LANGE TWINS

*Nest boxes serve as habitat for tree swallows (left), owls (right), and other birds that help control farm pests.*

## Beneficial Birds That Use Nest Boxes

Many birds that can benefit your farming operation use artificial nesting structures if they are built and placed properly. You can contact Audubon Society or California Waterfowl Association to get nest box plans and advice.

Wood Duck  
American Kestrel  
Barn Owl  
Screech Owl  
Hairy Woodpecker  
Common Flicker  
Western Bluebird  
Mountain Chickadee

Ash-throated Flycatcher  
White-breasted Nuthatch  
Tree Swallow  
Violet Green Swallow  
Plain Titmouse  
Bewick's Wren  
House Wren



VIRGLE KETNER